to take up development of two new mining projects, one for deposit 10/11A and the other for deposit 11B. The iron ore available at Deposit 11-B is reportedly best suited for production of sponge iron in gas-based plants. There is a proposal to take up development of Deposit 11-B as a joint venture of NMDC with one of the private sector entrepreneurs who are operating or setting up a gas-based sponge iron plant in the country and who already have an assurance from NMDC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement of iron ore. However, a final decision in this regard has not yet been taken.

**Modernisation of IISCO**

4978. *SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA*: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to modernise IISCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): In terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (as amended in February, 1994), Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) became a sick industrial company. Accordingly, a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR in June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act, for determination of measures to be adopted with respect to the company.

The case has been registered with BIFR in terms of Section 15 of the Act. Sick companies registered with BIFR can take up revival/modernisation schemes only with the sanction/approval of BIFR.

**Accident in Bhilai Steel Plant**

4979. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of workers of the Bhilai Steel Plant were hospitalised due to leakage of poisonous gas from some furnace of plant in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large number of workers have developed breathing trouble due to this incident;

(d) whether Government propose to have complete investigation of this incident in the interests of workers;

(e) whether Government also propose to take some measures ensuring these incidents are not repeated in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Twenty three persons were affected by leakage of Blast Furnace gas in Bhilai Steel Plant on 12.4.95. All the affected persons were rushed to the hospital immediately. Twelve persons were admitted while the rest were discharged after keeping them under observation. Of the twelve kept under observation/treatment, eight were released on 13.4.95, two on 14.4.95 and the remaining two on 17.4.95.

(d) Yes, Sir. SAIL has already constituted an Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Director (Projects) to enquire into the causes to recommend remedial measures and to fix up the responsibility.

(e) and (f) In SAIL, safety aspects are taken care of at the corporate and also at plant level. It has a safety organisation at the corporate level to coordinate, monitor, promote and enhance the safety, occupational health and fire service

activities of the plants/units/mines. A multi disciplinary safety department exists in each of the plant including Bhilai Steel Plant. A number of steps have been taken by Bhilai Steel Plant and other Steel Plants to implement various recommendations of different committees, internal as well as external safety organisations. Safety measures adopted by Bhilai Steel Plant and other SAIL plants for gas pipe lines are:

(i) Thickness measurement of all pressure lines, bends, etc. are being measured and changed wherever required. Schedules have been made for inspections of the same through Task Force.

(ii) Procedure for emergency power situation has been revised especially for EMD and circulated to all Shops.

(iii) Training Programmes are arranged to deal with the incidents relating to gas pipe lines.

(iv) Stand by power supply has been provided to all control valves.

(v) Disaster Management has been reviewed and circulated and also mock drills are conducted.

**Water supply to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

4980. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to initiate and complete a preliminary project on the river Godavari to pump water for supply to Visakhapatnam and to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in particular;

(b) whether any feasibility study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is not contemplating any project for pumping water from River Godavari to supply to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has assured supply of 73 MGD (MILLION GALLONS PER DAY) water to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant from Yeleru Reservoir through Yeleru Canal and to meet the water requirement of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, the State Government has earmarked 5 (five) TMC (THOUSAND MILLION CUBIC FEET) water in Yeleru Reservoir.

**Accident in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

4981. DR. SANJAYA SINH:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of acnidents which took place at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant during the period from January, 1994, to 31st March, 1995 alongwith the details of persons injured/killed as a result thereof;

(b) whether any enquiry committee was set up to ascertain the causes of accidents and if so, the details of the report submitted by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken on the recommendations?